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Cities assert preference for location of freeway

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AVONDALE - A freeway that is more than 10 years from being built has the attention of southwest Valley cities.

Avondale, in particular, has concerns about where Arizona 801, known as the Interstate 10 reliever, will be built.

The Arizona Department of Transportation is in the process of selecting the corridor through which the freeway will run.

Goodyear, Avondale and Phoenix are directly affected. Buckeye will be affected by a more westerly leg of the freeway.

ADOT is considering one of three corridors for the route through Goodyear, Avondale and Phoenix:

- South of Broadway Road.
- About a quarter-mile north of Southern Avenue.
- About a quarter-mile north of the Gila River.

Avondale strongly favors the third choice.

"Our concern is if you select one of the more northern alignments, it will have the effect of bisecting the city," said David Fitzhugh, Avondale's assistant city manager.

Developers already have plans for housing in those areas, he said.

"Our interest is to minimize the impact of those communities that are being planned at this point," Fitzhugh said.

Avondale has won the support of Goodyear and Phoenix.

The Goodyear City Council recently adopted a resolution recommending the Gila River route.

A Phoenix staff report recommends supporting Avondale's preference between 107th and 91st avenues. The report proposes the freeway take a more northerly route from 91st to 59th avenues.

A selection report, with recommendations, will be ready in the fall, said Diane D'Angelo, a spokeswoman for ADOT.

"The plus part of doing all this, if we do it on the front end, then by the time the freeway comes about, all these issues have been worked out," she said.

"It's not about one player imposing that entity's will on everybody else."

Construction of the six-lane freeway is on ADOT's schedule for 2021-26.

It is designed to connect the planned Loop 303 with the planned West Valley extension of Loop 202.

Arizona 801 would lessen traffic on I-10.

The freeway also would allow vehicles to bypass downtown Phoenix and connect to the southern end of Loop 202 and thus to I-10 headed toward Tucson.

Construction is years away, but now is the time to prepare, Avondale's Fitzhugh said.

"Our city is growing. We've trying to ensure a well-developed city (striking) a balance between different uses," he said.

What do you think?

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Your comments

If you look at the map you see where ADOT is wanting to put the interchanges. Why not just build a couple of them. For example for farther out so that you have two or three connections on the freeway so that people can get on easier.

Thou I am against the light rail system, I think ADOT would be smart to put a light rail express system on the 801. They could figure a way to connect it to Glendale.

(Larry8641, April 3, 2007 08:14AM)

more than 10 years from being built it needs to be finished now. With over 300,000 houses already planned for the west valley in the next two to three years. (terry2503, April 3, 2007 07:49AM)

Why should they post a map? If they did more people might get involved with the process. God knows the AZRepub couldn't stand that! This states government counts on under and misinformed citizens to get away

with the crap they do...

Be proud! AZ is the dumbest state in the nation! We're #1!!! And the AZREPUB helped us get here!(**Ri1144**, April 3, 2007 07:41AM)

Here you go Eric. http://www.dot.state.az.us/Highways/valley_freeways/SR801/index.asp(**Randy9424**, April 3, 2007 07:20AM)

You would think they, the Republic, would add a link to the adot map so people could see the routes. (**Eric5375**, April 3, 2007 05:31AM)
